



# Vision and Goals

## Vision

The vision statement for the Western Oregon Resource Management Plan Revisions (below in italics) is carried forward from the 1995 resource management plans with minor editing.

*The Bureau of Land Management will manage the natural resources under its jurisdiction in western Oregon to contribute to the social well being of the human population and to help enhance and maintain the ecological health of the environment.*

Basic principles that support this vision include:

- Natural resources can be managed to provide for human use and a healthy environment.
- Resource management must be focused on ecological principles to reduce the need for single resource or single species management.
- The involvement of people working with natural processes is important for successful implementation.
- The ability to achieve this vision can be enhanced by cooperation with others and consideration of the ecological, social, and economic role that Bureau of Land Management administered-lands play in the context of adjacent lands.
- Monitoring, research, and adaptation will be used to make changes or adjustments necessary to achieve this vision.

## Goals

Land use plan decisions establish goals and objectives for resource management (desired outcomes) and the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives (management actions and allowable uses).

Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes that usually are not quantifiable. The Environmental Impact Statement will examine alternative ways to achieve the goals to the extent allowed under laws and land ownership patterns.

The goals established in the Northwest Forest Plan in 1995 are still valid and will remain as the goals for the plan revisions effort. An additional goal (see Goal 3 below) was added to explicitly address amenities. Background information is provided for each goal to enhance understanding of the broad goals.

Objectives identify specific desired outcomes for resources. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable. The objectives, management actions, and allowable uses for each alternative will vary to provide managers with distinct choices among potential management strategies for achieving the goals.

***Goal 1 - Maintain healthy forest ecosystems with habitat that will support populations of native species and protection of riparian areas and water.***

- Manage the BLM lands within the landscape to contribute to conservation needs of special status species and ecosystems on which they depend.



The Endangered Species Act of 1973. The provisions of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, apply to plants and animals that have been listed as endangered or threatened, those proposed for listing, and designated and proposed critical habitat. The purposes of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) applicable to the BLM are:

- (1) Provide a means to conserve the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend;
- (2) Provide a program for conservation of endangered species and threatened species.

The Endangered Species Act requires all federal departments and agencies to conserve endangered and threatened species while utilizing their authorities to achieve these purposes.

The Endangered Species Act also requires agencies to:

*"...insure that any action...carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species and threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species."*

The BLM policy is broader than the Endangered Species Act. In addition to federally listed and proposed species, BLM policy addresses special status species that may be affected by BLM activities, for the following reasons:

- It is in the interest of the public and the affected special status species for BLM to undertake conservation actions for such species before listing is warranted, or before designation of critical habitat becomes necessary.
- It is also in the interest of the public and the affected special status species for BLM to undertake conservation actions that improve the status of such species to the point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted.
- Through these actions, the BLM will have greater flexibility in managing the public lands to accomplish native species conservation objectives, while fulfilling other mandates of the Federal Land and Policy Management Act.

The objective of the BLM Special Status Species Policy is to ensure BLM management actions are consistent with conservation needs of special status species and do not contribute to the need to list any Special Status Species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (BLM Manual 6840.02B).

Special status species in Oregon include all federal and state listed species, candidates for federal and state listing, and all species designated by the Oregon/Washington State Director as a sensitive or assessment species.

- **Provide clean waters that support viable fish and wildlife populations, domestic water use, safe drinking water, functioning riparian areas, and recreation use.**

The objective of the Clean Water Act "is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires BLM planning to comply with state and federal water pollution control laws. The Clean Water Act requires that all Resource Management Plans be consistent with state water quality standards.

The Clean Water Act also allows governors to specify BLM as a designated management agency. BLM thus becomes responsible for implementing state developed water quality management plans on public lands it administers. Beneficial uses of clean water commonly designated on BLM-managed streams include fish and aquatic species, domestic water supply, fishing, and recreation.



The Endangered Species Act recognized the link between water resources and species in its statement that “federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species.”

The Safe Drinking Water Act was originally passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation’s public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers that implement those standards.

Every state must conduct an assessment of its sources of drinking water (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells) to identify significant potential sources of contamination and to determine how susceptible the sources are to these threats.

- **Maintain the capacity of soils to function for sustained timber yield.**

The O&C Act requires that timber lands be managed for permanent forest production. The BLM will maintain the capacity of soils to function for sustained biological productivity, environmental quality, and to promote plant and animal health.

- **Prevent introduction of invasive species and provide for their control to minimize impacts to economic, ecological, and human health**

Invasive plant management is an inherent part of maintaining healthy forest ecosystems associated with BLM-managed lands in western Oregon. Invasive plants have been identified as a significant threat to habitat and species diversity.

Several federal acts and statutes support the Invasive Species Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999, which addresses the need “to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.”

- **Restore fire-resilient stands and protect communities at risk from uncharacteristic wildfire.**

President Bush signed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in December 2003. The Forests Restoration Act (sometimes referenced as the HFRA) contains a variety of provisions to reduce hazardous fuels on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands. The goal of the Act is to protect communities, watersheds, and at-risk forest and range lands from catastrophic wildfire.

The Act directs the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to maximize retention of larger trees in areas other than old-growth stands, consistent with the objective of restoring fire-resilient stands and protecting ‘at-risk’ communities and Federal lands.

- **Identify, designate, and protect areas of critical environmental concern.**

The Federal Land and Policy Management Act requires BLM to prepare and maintain, on a continuing basis, an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values...giving priority to areas of critical environmental concern. It further states that in the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall give



priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern. (Sec. 201 [43 U.S.C. 1711] and Sec. 202 [43 U.S.C.1712].)

- **Protect public lands and their resources from mineral entry uses.**

Section 204 of FLPMA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw public lands from operation of public land and mineral laws to avoid irreparable damage that may be caused by nondiscretionary activities.

***Goal 2 - Provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies, and contribute valuable resources to the national economy on a predictable and long-term basis.***

- **Maintain permanent forest production in conformity with the principles of sustained yield.**

The O&C Act of 1937 provides that the revested Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Act grant lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior that are classified as timberlands shall be:

“managed... for permanent forest production and the timber thereon shall be sold, cut, and removed in conformity with the principal [sic] of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities.”

The O&C lands were seen by Congress as a resource for communities and as an opportunity to contribute to the long-range stability of communities by preventing over-cutting of the land and providing for reforestation of cut-over lands (USDI 1945).

- **Annually declare and sell timber in an amount equal to the sustained yield capacity of the forested lands.**

The O&C Act further required establishment of an annual productive capacity and the requirement to sell that amount annually:

“Provided, that timber from said lands in an amount not less than one-half billion feet board measure, or not less than the annual sustained yield capacity (emphasis added) when the same has been determined and declared, shall be sold annually (emphasis added), or so much thereof as can be sold at reasonable prices on a normal market.”

- **Provide for multiple uses on public domain lands.**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires public lands to:

*“... be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.”*

The Act further states that public lands will “... be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands ....”



The Act calls for the various resource values to be managed so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people.

The Federal Lands and Policy Management Act acknowledged the unique purpose of the O&C lands, stating that in the event of conflict with or inconsistency between FLPMA and the O&C Act "...insofar as they [the Act] relate to management of timber resources, and disposition of revenues from lands and resources, the latter Acts shall prevail."

In this case, the "latter Acts" refers to the O&C Act.

- **Acquire adequate legal access to public lands for forest management activities and the removal of federal timber.**

The BLM timber sale policy requires that federal timber offered for sale by competitive bidding have guaranteed legal access for all prospective purchasers.

Section 502 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide for acquisition, construction, and maintenance of roads that will permit maximum economy in harvesting timber from public lands and at the same time meet the requirements for protection, development, and management of such lands for utilization of other resources thereof.

### ***Goal 3 - Provide amenities that enhance communities as places to live and work.***

- **Provide cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires public lands to be managed for historical and archeological values.

The National Historic Preservation Act (as amended through 1992) requires BLM to administer federally owned, administered or controlled prehistoric and historic resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations. These benefits include cultural, educational, esthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy.

- **Provide a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities.**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires public lands to be managed for scenic values and to provide for outdoor recreation.

The BLM policy calls for a broad spectrum of resource-dependent recreation opportunities to meet the needs and demands of public land visitors, while ensuring continued availability of public lands and related waters for a diversity of resource-dependent outdoor-recreation opportunities.

Additionally, the O&C Act states that one expected benefit of managing timberlands for permanent forest production, according to sustained forestry principles, is the provision of recreation facilities.

- **Make public lands available for special uses and needed rights-of-way.**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act provides for conservation and management of the public lands and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to



provide for the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands through permits, easements, and rights-of-way.

- **Protect public health and welfare by mitigating the impacts of air pollution emissions from wildland and prescribed fire on air quality and visibility.**

The underlying purpose of the Clean Air Act is to establish minimum national standards for air quality. The Clean Air Act most commonly affects planning and implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's wildland and prescribed fire program.

The Environmental Protection Agency's interim guidance on Wildland and Prescribed Fire (1998) integrates two public policy goals:

- (1) Allow fire to function, as nearly as possible, in its natural role in maintaining healthy wildland ecosystems, and
- (2) Protect public health and welfare by mitigating the impacts of air pollutant emissions on air quality and visibility.

## Reference

USDI, General Land Office, 1945. Forever Timber: Perpetual Sustained Yield Forestry on the Revested Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands and the Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands in Western Oregon.